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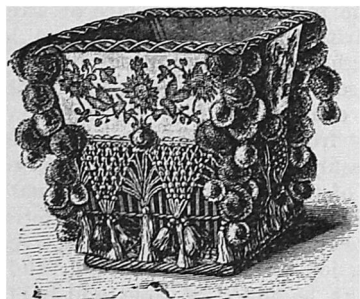
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AMONG THE STORES.

A STROLL about New York at this season can give one a better insight into the wants of the people and the direction their fancy takes, than almost any thing else we know of. The show windows are crowded inside with the most tempting articles, simple and expensive, and crowded outside with a horde of envious sightseers, who look with hopelessness upon coveted but unattainable chattels, or with those who calculate the chances of possessing a portion of the display before the holidays are past.

Broadway and Sixth Avenue, without considering the multitudes of equally pretentious but less expensive stores upon the other avenues, make such displays as are calculated to turn the head of every shopper and seduce the dollars from generous purchasers. The most gorgeous and elaborate articles can be seen in practically endless profusion; it is easy enough to pick out the thousand dollar goods, much easier than to find that which is within the reach of a moderate purse; and yet both may be had, both may be in the same case, lying together, tempting together the rich and the poor alike. We have nothing to do on this tour of these places, with the costly, we will leave those things to be discovered by those who wish to buy them, and we will content ourselves with searching out from the mass the pieces that come within moderate means, or better yet, that may be made at home. We cannot undertake to tell how these things are made, in most cases they speak for themselves, and the illustrations tell much more clearly what they are and how they are constructed than could any amount of reading matter.

The first that attracted our attention as we approached Fourteenth Street was a neat trash basket made for a library, or to find a place pos-



sibly in the study of some literary-disposed young lady; one thing we can be sure of, it is not calculated to receive the poetry of an editorial sanctum, being too delicate and soft to contribute to the wrath of neglected and unappreciated authors. It is an ordinary straw trash basket, covered and lined with silk, and decorated, as the drawing shows, at either corner with a profusion of plush balls and a quantity of thread tassels. In fact, take it as it is, standing there in the window beckoning (figuratively) to lots of admirers, it is as pretty as one could ask—and besides it can be made by any young lady, with the very least exercise of ingenuity.

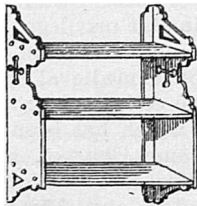
Not very far from this first article is another of about the same character, that is, straw and plush and embroidery, all looking fresh and nice



as it hangs in the back-ground. It is a straw basket, flat and with a slanting cover. A paste-board back has been attached to it, rising some ways above the lid; this back has a loop at the top by which to suspend it. The covering in this instance chances to be entirely of plush as well as the balls, while a heavy cord is sewed all about the edges. This of course is adapted to a lady's toilet, and is included in that significant and all-embracing title of "catch-all."

Scroll saws are very easily handled, and with a very little practice comparatively, a boy is enabled to turn out most satisfactory work. Here for instance is a small hanging book shelf, cut from pieces of white wood, or they might just as

well be made from cigar boxes, and probably the latter are easier to get. Whatever shape may be decided upon for the side pieces, whether it be



similar to the design shown here or something original with the maker himself, all that is necessary to do is to outline it upon the wood and follow the tracings with the saw. A toy, if it may be called a toy, that can produce such pleasing bits of useful ornaments as this, should be one of the most desirable of Christmas presents to every boy.

As we are on the subject of hanging articles, we are reminded of a very pretty cabinet, and an



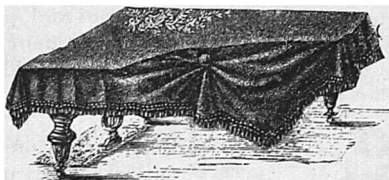
inexpensive one withal, that we saw recently; of course it was store goods and could hardly be included in the list of home-made possibilities, but it is just the thing a great many would be glad to have for a gift. These cabinets are so handy to put up in a convenient corner or a little alcove, where they may be far enough out of the way to protect their collection of china or bric-a-brac, and yet sufficiently close to display the beauty of all their possessions.

All manner of means are adopted to make the windows look pretty, and the effect is sought more for the interior than for the exterior. Imitation of stained glass was held out to those unable to indulge in the real article and the well known porcelain square with the picture upon it, be it ever so pretty, is somewhat too familiar to us now and we seek something else. The latest appears



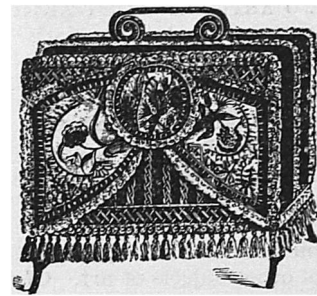
to be a metal frame, holding a number of colored glass roundels or bulls-eyes, and the interior filled with two sheets of glass between which is arranged a grouping of flowers, tastefully put together and pressed and shellaced so as to bring out the color before being laid between the glasses.

It has long been said that there can be nothing new in the shape of pianos, or at least every new piano is built upon precisely the same model as the preceding one. Did it ever occur to anyone that the expenses for designing for a piano factory must be very slight indeed, but the half-witted fellow who conceived the present shape should have been well rewarded, his design has been more widely followed than any other ever made. It is gratifying however if we can find nothing new in



the form of the case, at least to discover a novelty in the cover, and the freak of gathering the cover together with a huge button in the concavity of a "grand," is excellent. It's a little out of the ordinary way in a field where we had given up all hope for change.

Naturally a music stand goes together in the mind with a piano, and in these there is plenty



of variety. That we show here is an ordinary wicker stand, as slight as may be desired, and covered and draped with silk or plush, and bordered with fringe in appropriate colors to correspond with the covering.

Every lady can make use of a work basket and a work table; in fact from the comments we heard upon this one while we were looking at it,

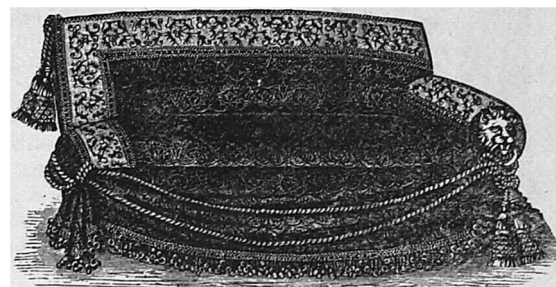


we came to the conclusion it was one of the precious belongings of woman-kind. This one was made very simply, too. A carpenter had knocked the frame together, it was pine no doubt, and then it had been covered and draped, and the basket below was padded and that was draped also, just exactly as we have shown in the illustration. The top was an octagon, and the legs didn't come straight to the ground, but flared outward so it stood firmer and looked more substantial.

Umbrellas are generally seasonable, and at this time they are especially gracious. Something new in the line of umbrella stands was discovered in an up-town store and hastily sketched. It is iron and the decoration symbolic of the particular weather that makes it useful, there is very little else about it to make it noticeable other than its unique design, and the admirable manner in which it fills its mission.

For those who want a real comfortable piece of furniture, we have made a drawing of a lounge that seems to possess all the qualifications necessary. It permits one to rest undisturbed by the pressure of an arm at the wrong end, it is graceful, restful, and beautiful.

The popularity of comfortable furniture, such as this lounge, does a great deal toward civilizing the people generally. It seems to us impossible for the human race to be good natured and good tempered if it is forced to sit in a "bolt upright" position in the extreme corner of a horse-hair covered sofa, with arms and back built upon the very straightest and most perpendicular principle,



or, still more horrible, if it has to rely for rest upon the antique rocker, having a back that is convex where it should be concave, and a bar across the very point where it will most interfere with the comfort of the sitter.

It is not surprising that our forefathers were guilty of atrocities and cruelties when they were brought up to endure such tortures as could be inflicted by the furniture of even twenty years ago; it served to deaden their sensibilities. Happily we have grown into a new condition, and we find furniture that will serve to humanize rather than to make us savages—in our feelings at least.